

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8016

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5114

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, AO, PO, MZ

SUBJ: VICTOR CRESPO ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) LISBON 2763 (DTG 281102Z APR 76), (B) FBIS (DTG
242121Z JUL 76)

1. DURING A JULY 28 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, FORMER COOPERATION
MINISTER CDR VICTOR CRESPO COMMENTED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA
AND MOZAMBIQUE.

-- ANGOLA: CRESPO DESCRIBED THE PURPOSE OF AGOSTINHO
NETO'S VISIT TO CUBA AS TWO-FOLD:

(A) TO PERSONALLY THANK FIDEL CASTRO AND THE CUBAN PEOPLE

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FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN ANGOLA; AND

(B) TO ASSUAGE ANY FEELINGS IN HAVANA THAT THE CUBANS WERE UNWANTED IN ANGOLA. CRESPO SAID NETO WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE IN THE MPLA WHO HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY RELUCTANT TO INVITE THE CUBANS IN. ASSURANCES FROM NETO THAT THE CUBANS WERE APPRECIATED WOULD THEREFORE CARRY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. CRESPO HAD NO NEW INSIGHTS TO OFFER ON ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS. HE REAFFIRMED THAT PATIENCE WAS THE BEST POLICY IN DEALING WITH ANGOLA -- BOTH FOR THE GOP AND THE USG (REF A). FOR THE GOP, HE ADDED, THAT APPROACH SEEMED TO BE BEARING SOME FRUIT. THE RECENT WARM MESSAGE FROM RPA FOREIGN MINISTER DOS SANTOS IN RESPONSE TO A ROUTINE MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING GOP FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES SEEMED TO INDICATE A THAWING IN RPA ATTITUDES TOWARD PORTUGAL (REF B).

-- MOZAMBIQUE: CRESPO SAID GOP RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE WERE IMPROVING BUT MANY PROBLEMS REMAINED. APPROXIMATELY 40,000 PORTUGUESE WERE STILL IN MOZAMBIQUE. CRESPO ESTIMATED THAT 15,000 OF THEM WILL DEPART. AN AIR-LIFT HAS BEEN ORGANIZED. SEVEN 747 FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED EACH WEEK UNTIL ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE ARE REMOVED.
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